

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated July 29, 2008 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 32, 37, 39-41, 44, 47, and 52 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 25 has been allowed. The Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Accordingly, features of allowable claim 44 have been incorporated into independent claim 31 and claim 44 has been cancelled. Likewise, features of allowable claim 52 have been incorporated into independent claim 46 and claim 52 has been cancelled. In addition, the rest of the allowable claims 32, 37, 39-41, and 47 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 63-68, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, claims 31, 33-36, 38, 42, 45, 46, 48-51 and 53-62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bleich et al. (US 5,576,515) in view of Clouet et al. (5,922,155). Claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bleich et al. (US 5,576,515) in view of Clouet et al. (5,922,155) as applied to claim 31 above, and further in view of Tessier et al. (5,132,488). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

However, as noted above, without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejections and comments, features of allowable claim 44 has been incorporated into independent claim 31 and claim 44 has been cancelled. Likewise, features of allowable claim 52 have been incorporated into independent claim 46 and claim 52 has been cancelled.

Thus, in view of the above, all of claims 31, 33-36, 38, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48-51 and 53-62 are in condition for immediate allowance and withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested. The Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the Examiner's rejections and reserve the right to make arguments as may be necessary should the Applicants pursue the originally presented subject matter in future applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claim 25 is allowed and claims 32, 37, 39-41, 44, 47 and 52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

As noted above, features of allowable claim 44 have been incorporated into independent claim 31 and claim 44 has been cancelled. Features of allowable claim 52 have been incorporated into independent claim 46 and claim 52 has been cancelled. In addition, the rest of the allowable claims 32, 37, 39-41, and 47 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 63-68, respectively.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present patent application is in immediate condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. Please direct any inquiries concerning this application to the undersigned attorney at 612.766.6093.

Respectfully submitted,

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